

8-2008

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 84, no. 3)

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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 84

AUGUST 2008

NO. 3



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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. *The Kentucky Warbler* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions and memberships should be sent to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

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THE COVER

We thank Ben Yandell for the image of the Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) taken 8 May 2008 in Fulton County (see Spring Season 2008, p. 56). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



SPRING SEASON 2008

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

The spring 2008 season's weather was overall relatively unremarkable, although a late snowstorm and a wetter-than-average period highlighted the season. Temperature were near normal at most stations during March and April although slightly cooler than normal in May, with 90°F not reached at any of the major stations by the end of that month. Precipitation was somewhat variable over the state during the period. March and early April were wetter than normal across the northern and western portions of the state, where Paducah received a record amount of March rainfall (9.6 in; 24.4 cm). The only portion of the state that remained drier than normal overall through the period was the eastern third, especially the southeast. Precipitation across south-central Kentucky was only slightly above normal during March and April, although a couple of rainfall events in early April allowed the transient lakes to rise to a moderate level before receding during the peak of the shorebird season, affording an excellent opportunity to view shorebirds during May. Other than a few periods of copious rainfall, the only significant weather event of the season was the snowstorm of 8 March, which dumped up to 11 inches of snow on portions of north-central Kentucky. Snowfall totals were greatest along the Ohio River from Louisville to the Cincinnati area, but the entire state was blanketed by at least some snow cover. This event was responsible for a flurry of bird activity at feeding stations and a one-day appearance of Snow Buntings in Boone County. In contrast to the previous spring, average rainfall and no abnormally cold weather resulted in good seed crops on deciduous trees.

Rarity highlights were numerous and included a flock of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (first state record), Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, two records each of Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, Ruff, Great Black-backed Gull, Say's Phoebe, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Painted Bunting. We thank Tom Reaugh, National Weather Service in Louisville, for providing a summary of the 8 March snowstorm.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Observers are cautioned that records of out-of-season birds and all rarities must be accompanied with good details or documentation for acceptance. Documentation must be submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “vt.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented on videotape; “†” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Ballard = Ballard WMA, *Ballard*; Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, *Lyon/Livingston*; Barren = Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*; Berea Forest = Berea College Forest, *Madison*; Big South Fork = Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, *McCreary*; Blackacre = Blackacre SNP, *Jefferson*; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*; Camp #9 = Peabody Camp #9 coal preparation plant, *Union*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*; Caperton = Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*; Cave Run Lake = Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan* (unless otherwise noted); Cecilia = Cecilia, *Hardin*; Chaney = Chaney Lake, *Warren*; Cherokee Park = Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*; Clarks River = Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, *Marshall*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Dog Creek = Dog Creek Campground, Nolin Lake, *Hart*; East Bend = East Bend Power Station, *Boone*; Falls of the Ohio = Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Fisherville = Fisherville, *Jefferson*; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; Garvin Brown = Garvin Brown Preserve, *Jefferson*; Guthrie Swamp = Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*; Homestead = Homestead Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; Horseshoe Road = slough next to Horseshoe Road,

Henderson; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; KY 739 = transient pond along KY 739 se. of Williams Store, *Logan*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Ky Dam Village = Kentucky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Marshall/Lyon/Calloway/Trigg*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, *Lyon*; Lake Barkley = Lake Barkley, *Lyon/Trigg*; Lake No. 9 = Lake No. 9, *Fulton*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; Long Point = Long Point Unit, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, *Fulton*; Lower Hickman Bottoms = Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*; McElroy = McElroy Lake, *Warren*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, *Jefferson*; Midway Church Road = Midway Church Road, w. *Fulton*; Morgan Pond = Morgan Pond, *Christian*; Mt. Zion = Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*; Murray = Murray, *Calloway*; Open Pond = Open Pond, *Fulton*; Reformatory Lake = Reformatory Lake near Buckner, *Oldham*; Russellville = Russellville, *Logan*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sawyer Park = E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park, *Jefferson*; Shawnee Park = Shawnee Park, *Jefferson*; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm = Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*; Swallow Spring = Swallow Spring Pond, *Christian*; Waitsboro = Waitsboro Recreation Area, Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Woodburn = Woodburn, s. *Warren*.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck – 5 at and near Open Pond 8 May (ph. BY, MY, et al.) will represent a first state record. See photographs on front cover and on p. 79. KBRC review required.

Ross's Goose x Snow Goose – 1 was present at McElroy 21 March (DR). The fact that only one observer (DR) is reporting this hybrid combination (three times in the past three years) suggests that everyone else (including the authors) may be missing the presence of such individuals.

Ross's Goose – there were only two reports: 1 at Cooley's Pond, *Wayne*, 4/7 March (RDn) and 1 at Eubank, *Pulaski*, 25-28 March (ph. RDn).

Cackling Goose – ca. 10 at the Reformatory Lake 6 March (ph. EH) represented a new late departure date for the state.

Mute Swan – there were several reports, all being included: 2 at Lexington in early March (JSw, SM); 2 still on the Reformatory Lake 6 March (EH, BW); 1 on a pond in nw. *McCracken* 8 March–5 April (RFn, *fide* SR); 2 on a pond near Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 15 March (RDn, et al.); 2 in a flooded area at Hartford, *Ohio*, 23 April (SH); and 1 at Pulaski County Park/Fishing Creek 15 May through the end of the month (RDn).

Tundra Swan – 6 were last seen at Sauerheber 2 March (CC).

Gadwall – ca. 300 at Morgan Pond 23 March (MB) represented the season's peak count; there were a few reports of lingering birds, all being included: a pair at Dayton, *Campbell*, 5 May with a male still there 15 May (FR); 2 males at McElroy through 29 May (DR); and 1 male (possibly one of the birds from McElroy) at Chaney 30 May (DR).

Mallard – nesting birds were well distributed on transient ponds from *Warren* west to *Trigg* (m. ob.).

Blue-winged Teal – peak counts included ca. 200 at McElroy 21 March (DR); ca. 150 at Morgan Pond 23 March (MB); 250, maybe 300, at McElroy and 125-150+ at Morgan Pond, both 12 April (BP, BY, MY); and 125-150 at Ellis Park, *Henderson*, 19 April (BP, EH, BY, MY). Nesting was confirmed at two locales: a nest with 7 eggs at McElroy 5 May (DR, RDv); and a nest with 11 eggs at Morgan Pond and a female flushed off another nest, both 17 May (BP, MSt). Tardy birds suggesting possible breeding included the following: a pair at Sauerheber 18 May (CC); 4 still along KY 739 on 19 May (MB); 1 at Sauerheber 25 May (CC); and birds present in w. *Fulton* 28 May (HC).

Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal – a male was observed in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 5 April (ph. RDn, HC, ME, PHo).

teal sp. – a female teal at McElroy 15 April (ph. DR) showed characters suggestive of Cinnamon Teal. Under KBRC review.

Northern Shoveler – small numbers lingered at several locales well into May with 2 still at both McElroy and Morgan Pond 17 May (BP, MSt) and 1 at McElroy to 26 May (DR).

Green-winged Teal – peak counts included ca. 100 at Sauerheber 10 March (AH); 60 at Thurston's Pond, *Wayne*, 14 March (RDn); and 20-25 at Hicks Lake, *Hardin*, 18 March (BP). There were two reports of tardy males: 1 at McElroy to 21 May (DR) and 1 along Midway Church Road 28 May (HC).

Canvasback – a male on Lake Barkley above the dam 9 May (BP, MM) was the latest to be reported.

Redhead – reports of interest included 70 at South Lake, Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 1 March (DR et al.); 40+ on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 March (BP, CB); and at least 55 at Hicks Lake, *Hardin*, (BP) and 100 on the Ohio River at Louisville (EH), both 18 March.

Ring-necked Duck – peak counts included 68 at Fishing Creek 5 March (RDn) and 110+ at the Payne Plant basins, *Jefferson*, 29 March (MA). Lingered birds included a male on Ky Lake above the dam to 9 May (BP, MM); 3 at McElroy 18 May with 2 there to 24 May (DR); and a pair at Morgan Pond 17 May (BP, MSt) with a female lingering there into June (m. ob.).

Greater Scaup – small numbers were observed at scattered locales during the March and early April migratory period as expected; reports of interest included ca. 15 at McElroy 22 March (DR); a female at McElroy 6 May with a male lingering there to 24 May (DR et al.); and a male at Camp #9 on 18 May (BP).

Lesser Scaup – peak counts of interest included ca. 1000 total on Ky Lake and Lake Barkley near the dams 10 March (AH) and 200+ at McElroy 22 March (DR). Quite a few reports of small groups of lingering migrants occurred into the second week of May with the latest reports including 10 at both McElroy and Morgan Pond 17 May (BP, MSt); 1 at McElroy to 21 May (DR); 5 at Melco 16-19 May (BP, EH); 2 at Camp #9 on 18 May (BP); 3 along KY 739 on 19 May (MB); and 3 at Morgan Pond 22 May (DR) with a male there 30 May (DR).

Surf Scoter – there were several reports, all being included: 2 female/imms. on Ky Lake above the dam 6/12 April (ph. DR et al.); an adult male at McElroy 8 April–23 May (ph. DR et al.); 2 on Ky Lake n. of the US 68 bridge, *Trigg*, 12 April (DR, AH); 3 including an adult male on the water supply reservoir at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 13-16 April with 2 still there 17 April (ph. FR, DHa); 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 26-27 April (DR, JRo); 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 5-9 May (BP et al.); and 4 at Waitsboro 14 May (ph. RDn).

White-winged Scoter – there was an unprecedented flurry of reports, including two new state high counts, in early March, all being included: probably separate flocks of 18 on the Ohio River opposite Charles-town State Park, Indiana, *Oldham*, 2 March (ph. CDr) and 13 on the Ohio River at Louisville 3 March (ph. EH, JH, DS) that both represented new state high counts; at least 3 at Hicks Lake, *Hardin*, 18 March (BP); 2 that continued on the Ohio River at Louisville to 19 March (EH); and 2 on Ky Lake n. of the US 68 bridge, *Trigg*, 12 April (DR, AH) that established a new late departure date.



White-winged Scoters (17 of 18), Ohio River, *Oldham*, 2 March 2008
Christopher Drake

Black Scoter – there were two reports: 2 females/imms. on the Ohio River at Louisville 18 March (EH) and an adult male on the water supply reservoir at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 13-17 April (ph. FR, DHa).

Long-tailed Duck – a female was present at the Lexington Reservoir 1-17 March (ph. JP, JW, et al.).

Bufflehead – ca. 150 on the Ohio River at Louisville 18 March with ca. 135 still in the same area 19 March (EH) represented the season's high counts; a male lingered on Ky Lake above the dam into mid-May (m. ob.).

Common Goldeneye – 3 were still on Ky Lake above the dam 9 May (BP, MM) and a pair lingered on Ky Lake above the dam into mid-May (m. ob.).

Hooded Merganser – there were several reports of nesting, all being included: a female with 7 young at Ballard 5 May (SR); a female with 5 young on a pond at Shallow Flats, Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*, 10 May (GR, FB, et al.); a female with 6 young at Split Rock Conservation Park, *Boone*, 10 May (LM et al.); a female with 8-9 young at Caperton 10/25 May (BY, MY); a female with 6 young along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 18 May (LM); and a female with 3 young at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, during the last week of May (P&CM, *fide* BW).

Common Merganser – 4 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 16 March (†GR) were the only ones reported during the period.

Red-breasted Merganser – 150+ on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 22 March (BP, EH, MSt) with 100+ still there 28 March (DR) represented the season's high counts; 1 on Lake Barkley above the dam and 1 at Kuttawa, both 9 May (BP, MM), and a male on the Rockcastle River at Bee Rock, *Laurel/Pulaski*, 15 May (RBu, WL, CF, *fide* SS) were the latest to be reported.

Ruddy Duck – ca. 125 on the Ohio River at Louisville 18 March (EH) represented the season's high count. There were several reports of lingering birds, all being in-

cluded: 1 on Lake Barkley above the dam 9 May (BP, MM); 1 at Open Pond 12 May (RDn, SD); 1 at Camp #11 on 18 May (BP); the species was last seen at McElroy 24 May (DR); and 5-6 lingered at and near Morgan Pond into June (m. ob.).

Common Loon – ca. 50 scattered on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 22 March (BP, EH, MSt) represented the season's high count. Reports of interest included 12 at Barren 3 April (DR); 9 at McElroy 9 April (DR); 1-2 birds seen on Ky Lake above the dam, at Kuttawa, at Swallow Spring and at McElroy 9 May (BP, MM); 3 at Cave Run Lake 10 May (GR, FB, et al.); and 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 19 May (BP, SH).

Pied-billed Grebe – a count of at least 165 at Lake Pee wee, *Hopkins*, 1 March (BP, MSt) represented a new state high count. Birds lingered at several locales into mid-May with the following late reports: a few at McElroy through 17 May (DR, BP, MSt); 1 at Lake No. 9 and 1 at Open Pond, both 28 May (HC); at least 10 still at Morgan Pond 9 May (BP, MM) with a few there to the last week of May and at least 1 continuing there into June (m. ob.); and at least 1 at Chaney into June (DR).

Horned Grebe – peak counts of interest included ca. 50 on the Ohio River at Louisville 18 March (EH); 53 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 22 March (RDn); and 30+ at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 4 April (BP). A few birds lingered into May as follows: 1 still at Morgan Pond 9 May (BP, MM); 1 at McElroy to 17 May (m. ob.); and 1 at Camp #9 on 18 May (BP).

Red-necked Grebe – 1 was present on Lake Barkley above the dam 18 March (†PL).

Eared Grebe – 1 was present at Kuttawa 18 March (†PL).

Western Grebe – 1 was observed on Lake Barkley above the dam 26-27 April (vt./†DR, JRo). KBRC review required.

American White Pelican – peak counts included 700-1000 at Blood River 2 March (HC); 500 in the vicinity of Barkley Dam 18 March (PL); 540 counted below Barkley Dam 20 March (KL, BL_e); and

ca. 550 below Barkley Dam with a few hundred more on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 28 March (DR). Other reports of interest included 13 at Ballard 20 March (SR); 1 in flight near Shelbyville, *Shelby*, 10 May (TB, *fide* HB); ca. 30 still on Lake Barkley above the dam 9 May (BP, MM), with 13 still there 13 May (KL, BLe), and 2 still there 23 May (KL, BLe); and 190 total at Lake No. 9 and Open Pond 28 May (HC).

Brown Pelican – 1 was present below Barkley Dam 25 April (ph. DB). KBRC review required.

pelican sp. – a probable Brown Pelican was present at the Watertown Yacht Club at Dayton, *Campbell*, for about two days around 1 May (DHs, ph. CS). Verbal descriptions are supportive of this species, but the photograph is not definitive. Under KBRC review.

Double-crested Cormorant – peak counts of interest included ca. 2500 at Kuttawa 22 March (BP, EH, MSt); 900-1000 over Bowling Green 6 April (DR); ca. 75 at McElroy 9 April (DR); and two flocks totaling ca. 120 birds passing over McElroy 9 May (DR). Nesting birds spread to Kuttawa (DR et al.) and an island on Lake Barkley near the mouth of Little River, *Trigg* (ER) this year, with at least 75 nests counted at the former locale 6 May (BP et al.).

American Bittern – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Long Point 6 April (HC, RDn, ME, PHo); 2 at Clarks River 6 April (AE, MJ, *fide* HC) with 1 there 8 April (AE); a bird killed along the road at McElroy 11 April (DR et al.); 1 at Garvin Brown 12 April (MA); 1 at Long Creek Waterfowl Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 20 April (BLi); 1 at McElroy 3 May (FL, DR, SK, JK); 1 at Arthur Draut Park, Louisville, 4 May (GH, MCo, et al.); and 1 heard at Camp #11 on 5 May (BP).

Great Blue Heron – new reports of nesting included the following: 2 pairs along the Beaver Creek drainage above Cave Run Lake, *Menifee* (EM et al.); Paintsville Lake WMA, *Johnson* (ph. SB); and Shippingport Island, *Jefferson* (DS). The her-

onry at East Bend has grown to 40 active nests (KCa, JCM).

Great Egret – 1 at Ballard 20 March (SR) was the earliest to be reported.

Snowy Egret – 4 below Ky Dam 12 April (DR, AH) were the earliest to be reported; reports of interest included 1 at Sauerheber 4/5 May (CC/BP) and 1 at Melco 8 May (EH).

Little Blue Heron – a bird at LBL, *Trigg*, 5 April (BLi) was the earliest to be reported.

Cattle Egret – there were only three reports away from the western portion of the state: 1 over McElroy 9 May (MM, BP); 6 along KY 268, w. *Henderson*, 20 May (CC); and 1 along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 26 May (LM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – ca. 12 at Kuttawa 22 March (BP, EH, MSt) were the earliest to be reported away from traditional wintering locales, although 2 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 24 March (MA) may also have been recent arrivals.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – there were only two reports: 2 pairs at nests along Woodbine Drive, Lexington, 18 April (PD) and 1 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 4 May (CC).

Glossy Ibis – 2 were present at McElroy 14 May (AH, ph. DR). KBRC review required.

Black Vulture – a tally of at least 125 at the Reformatory Lake 6 March (EH) represented the peak count reported for the season.

Turkey Vulture – 400-500 birds in the vicinity of Cave Run Lake 18 March (EM) represented the season's peak count.

Osprey – singles on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 9 March (HC) and on the Ohio River at Smithland, *Livingston*, 10 March (AH) were the earliest to be reported; a pair again initiated a nest on Shippingport Island, Louisville, in late April (DS et al.).

Mississippi Kite – 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 26 April (DR, JRo) tied the early arrival date for the state; the only report of a vagrant bird was a sub-adult over McElroy 23 May (DR, TD).

Bald Eagle – new nests were reported at the following locales: just ne. of Guthrie Swamp 31 March (DR); near Camp #9 during March (BHe et al.); and a second nest at Cave Run Lake, *Bath*, in early April (EM, FB, et al.). One to 2 birds on four dates 21 March–30 April at McElroy (DR et al.) is probably indicative of the number of migrants that now occur across the state during spring.

Northern Harrier – there were a few reports of lingering birds including 1 near Open Pond 8 May (BP, MM) and 1 (perhaps different individuals) at McElroy on several dates in May as late as 20 May (DR).

Red-tailed Hawk – reports of interest included an intermediate or dark morph adult *B. j. harlani* along Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, 1 March (BP, MSt) that was likely the same individual as seen winter 2006–2007 and a juv. bird with at least some Krider's or light morph *B. j. harlani* lineage apparent in the Lower Hickman Bottoms on the relatively late date of 26 April (ph. DR, JRo).

Rough-legged Hawk – peak late-season counts were represented by 3 at Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, and 1 at Sinclair, all 1 March (DR et al.) and 2 at Sinclair and 3 at the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, also 1 March (BP, MSt).

Merlin – there were nine reports, all being included: 1 at Clear Creek Park, *Shelby*, 15 March (HB); singles at McElroy 22 March and 9/11/30 April (DR, AH, et al.) with an individual of the prairie race, *F. c. richardsonii*, there 24 March (DR, RDv, AH); 1 along US 68, *Todd*, 28 March (DR); and 1 at McElroy and 1 at Morgan Pond, both 12 April (MY, BY, BP).

Peregrine Falcon – there were several reports of migrants: 1 at Grassy Pond/ Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 2 March (CC); 1 at Ballard 20 March (SR); 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 26 April (DR, JRo); 1 or more birds were present on at least nine days at McElroy 28 April–23 May (DR et al.) with 2 there 30 April (DR) and at least 3 and possibly

as many as 6 there 9 May (DR); 1 at Chaney 30 April (DR); 1 at Shawnee Park 10 May (JBe, PB); and 1 along KY 739 on 18 May (FL). Local nesting birds were also seen on several occasions in the Louisville area (m. ob.) and on the I-275 bridge over the Ohio River, *Campbell* (FR). A pair of banded birds at East Bend was behaving as if territorial during May (KCa, JcM), but a nest was not initiated (KH).

Sora – there were not many reports; a count of only 2 at Sauerheber 19 April was remarkably low given the date and locale (BP, EH, BY, MY); at least 6 were heard at Morgan Pond 3 May (BP, EH, MSt); 12–15 were heard at Camp #11 on 5 May (BP); a bird at Morgan Pond 30 May (ph. DR) established a new late departure date for the state.

American Coot – ca. 1000 at McElroy 9 April (DR) represented the season's peak count; reports of lingering birds included ca. 35 still at Camp #11 (BP) and 1 at Sauerheber (CC), both 18 May; at least 10 at McElroy through 24 May (DR); and 3 at Morgan Pond into June (m. ob.).

Sandhill Crane – ca. 175 were still w. of Cecilia 18 March (BP, PL); there were a few reports of tardy migrants including 1 at Green River Lake across from the mouth of Snake Creek, *Adair*, 6 May (RDn); 1 at McElroy 12 May (AH) and 1 at Yatesville WMA, *Lawrence*, 22 May (RMr, *fide* SF).

Black-bellied Plover – 1 at Morgan Pond 12 April (BP, BY, MY) missed tying the early state date by one day. The species was well-represented at McElroy during the season with 1 first observed there 21 April (DR), 2–17 seen on several subsequent dates (m. ob.); peak counts of 22 there 18 May (DR), 45+ there 20 May (DR), and ca. 20 there 21 May (DR); and 1 last seen there 24 May (DR). Other reports of interest included 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 19 April (BP, EH, BY, MY); 1 at Melco 1–2 May (EH et al.); 4 at Morgan Pond 3/17 May (BP, EH, MSt); 2 near Open Pond 8 May (BP, MM); 19 along KY 739 on 16 May (MB) with 5 there 19

May (MB) and 3 still there 23 May (FL); and 3 at Open Pond 28 May (HC).

American Golden-Plover – the species was well represented at McElroy during the season: at least 20 were first seen there 16 March (BP, EH) followed by peak counts of ca. 40 on 21 March (DR), 25+ on 22 March (DR), 56 on 24 March (DR, RDv, AH), 100+ on 4 April (AH), and ca. 100 on 5 April (DR); then 1-2 were seen there on seven dates 6 April–12 May (m. ob.) with 1 last seen there 16 May (TD). Other reports of interest included 5 near Fullove Hill, *Meade*, 4 April (BP); 51 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 April (HC, RDn, ME, PHo); 1 at Morgan Pond 3 May (BP, EH, MSt); and 16 at Open Pond 12 May (RDn, SD).

Semipalmated Plover – the species put on an excellent showing at McElroy during the season with new state high counts tallied on three dates; 1 there 8 April (DR, AH) was the earliest to be reported; at least a hundred birds were present there on every date visited 29 April–23 May (DR et al.) with impressive peak counts of 600+ on 7 May (BP), 1000-1200 on 9 May (DR et al.), and 800-1000 on 18 May (DR). Other peak counts of interest included 100+ at Swallow Spring 7 May (BP) and 30+ at Melco 14 May (BP, EH, MM). Late migrants continued to be seen at a few sites into late May with 100+ in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 28 May (HC); 15 at McElroy 30 May (DR); and 7 at Melco 30 May (EH).

Piping Plover – there were two reports, both from McElroy: 1 heard 5 May (DR) and a male seen 9 May (ph. DR et al.).

Black-necked Stilt – it was a banner spring for the species with more than a dozen reports; all being included: 1 at McElroy 4 April (AH) was the earliest to be reported; 1 at Lower Beaverdam Slough, Ballard, 24 April (SR); 3 at Morgan Pond 25/27 April (DR, JRo); 13 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 26 April (DR, JRo); 7 at and near Open Pond 8 May (BY, MY, et al) with 6 there 12 May (RDn, SD) and 2 still there behaving as if nesting 28 May (HC); 1 at McElroy 8 May (TD), 16 May (AH,

TD) and 18 May (DR) with 2 there 22 May (DR); 3 at Chaney 9 May (BP, MM) with 2 there 23/30 May (DR); 2 at Camp #9 on 18 May (ph. BP); 2 at Sauerheber 25 May (CC); and a nesting pair at Morgan Pond 22 May (DR) with 12+ birds and 10 active nests there 30 May (ph. DR).

American Avocet – there was only one report: 1 at Camp #9 on 18 May (ph. BP).

Spotted Sandpiper – 1 at McElroy 11 April (DR et al.) was the earliest to be reported; peak counts of ca. 20 birds were recorded there 20/22 May (DR) and at least 1 bird lingered there to 27 May (DR). A count of 10-12 along the Licking River downstream from Blue Licks, *Robertson/Nicholas*, 25 May (SM, RBr) was rather impressive for so late in the season; other reports of relatively late migrants included 1 on the Rockcastle River at Bee Rock, *Pulaski*, 24 May (TH, BBC) and 2 in w. *Henderson* 25 May (CC). Also, 2 in courtship display at a gravel pit at Petersburg, *Boone*, 15 May (LM) may have been on territory.

Solitary Sandpiper – a bird at McElroy 31 March (DR) was the earliest to be reported.



Piping Plover, McElroy Lake
9 May 2008
David Roemer

Greater Yellowlegs – peak counts were unimpressive and included ca. 40 at Morgan Pond 12 April (BP, BY, MY) and ca. 20 at McElroy 30 April (DR); 2 at McElroy 29 May (DR) were the latest to be reported.

Willet – there were eight reports: 2 at McElroy 18 April (DR); 41 there 25 April (DR, JRo, AH); 14 there 29 April (DR); 2 there 3 May (m. ob.); 10-15 there 4 May (JP, DPu); 9 at Morgan Pond and 11 at McElroy, both 7 May (BP); and 1 at McElroy 14 May (DR, AH).

Lesser Yellowlegs – a tally of 684 at scattered sites in the vicinity of Woodburn, including 524 at Chapman Pond, 10 May (DR) represented a new state high count; the species was well-represented at McElroy with peak counts of ca. 300 on 29 April (DR et al.), ca. 350 on 30 April (DR), at least 407 counted 5 May (DR et al.), and 300-400 on 9 May (DR et al.). Other peak counts were highlighted by 55+ at Melco 29 April (EH); 200+ at Morgan Pond 3 May (BP, EH, MSt); and ca. 100 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 8 May (BY, MY, BP, MM). Latest reports were represented by 10-15 at McElroy 24 May (DR), at least 1 still in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 28 May (HC); and 1 at Morgan Pond 30 May (DR).

Upland Sandpiper – there was only one report: 1 heard over McElroy 29 April (DR).

Hudsonian Godwit – there were two reports from McElroy: a female 11-12 May (ph. DR et al.) and a pair 18 May (ph. DR et al.). KBRC review required.

Marbled Godwit – there were two reports: 10 total (groups of 8 & 2) at McElroy 11 April (ph. DR et al.) and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 26 April (†DS, †T&CB). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – the species put on an unprecedented showing at McElroy during the season as follows: 1 was first observed there 4 May (JP, DPu); peak counts of 49 on 18 May (ph. DR), 74+ on 20 May (DR), ca. 55 on 21 May (DR) and 35-40 on 22 May (DR) all represented new state high counts; and 1-12+ individuals were observed on several additional dates 14-27 May (DR et al.). Also reported were 1 along KY 739 on 16 May (MB) and 6 at Morgan Pond 17 May (BP, MSt).

Sanderling – small numbers were reported only at McElroy as follows: 4 first seen there 3 May (BP, DR, et al.), 1-3 subsequently seen on twelve dates 5-22 May (DR et al.), and 4 last seen 23 May (DR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – the species put on a good showing at McElroy; 3 there 2 May (DR) were the earliest to be reported; 400 or more were counted on six dates 18-27 May with peak counts of 2500-3000 on 23 May and 2050 on 26 May (DR) establishing new state high counts; 800+ were still there 27 May with ca. 150 there 30 May (DR). Other relatively noteworthy counts included ca. 150 along KY 739 on 26 May (MB) with ca. 120 still there 30 May (DR, FL); “hundreds” in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 28 May (HC); and 175+ at Morgan Pond and ca. 100 at Chaney, both 30 May (DR).

Western Sandpiper – 1 reported at Blood River 29 February (HC, BHa) may have been a wintering bird or extremely early migrant; the species put on a nice showing at McElroy with the following reports: at least 4 first seen there 28 April (BP et al.) with 8 there 29 April (DR, AH); 3 there 30 April (DR); a new state high count for spring of 19 there 2 May (DR); ca. 5 there 3 May (DR et al.); 1 there 5 May (DR), 2 there 9 May (DR), and at least 2 there 16 May (†TD), representing a new late departure date for the state. Also reported were 2 at Clarks River 1 May (HC).

Least Sandpiper – birds continued from winter at Blood River and Jonathan Creek into March (HC, BHa); 14 at Guthrie Swamp (MB), and 1 at Sauerheber (CC), all 2 March (MB), may have been either wintering birds or early migrants; otherwise, 2 at McElroy 17 March (AH) were the earliest migrants reported. Peak counts at McElroy established new state high counts for spring on six days 5-19 May with the following exceptional counts: 500+ on 6 May, 2000+ on 9 May, 500+ on 17 May, 800-1000+ on 18 May, and ca. 500 on 19 May (DR et al.). Other peak counts of interest included 250-300+ at Swallow Spring and 100+ at Morgan Pond, both 7 May (BP), and 50 at Melco

14 May (BP, EH, MM). One at McElroy 29 May (DR) was the latest to be reported.

White-rumped Sandpiper – 1 at Clarks River 1 May (HC) was the earliest to be reported; the species was well-represented at McElroy with 1 first noted there 2 May (DR); 50 or more were counted there on eight days 18-29 May (DR) with peak counts of 130-150 on 22 May, 150+ on 23 May, and 80-100 on 24/26 May (DR). The species was also widely distributed in small numbers at other shorebird hot spots with birds lingering into June at a few locales (m. ob.). Other reports of interest included 10+ at Swallow Spring 17 May (BP, MSt); 5 at Melco 14 May (BP, EH, MM) with 4 still there 30 May (EH); 2 along KY 739 on 13 May (FL, AL) with ca. 10 there 14/16 May (MB); and 2 along US 431 s. of Russellville 16 May (MB).

Baird's Sandpiper – there was only one report: 1 at McElroy 9 May (DR et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper – the species was encountered in below-average numbers this spring; at McElroy ca. 30 birds were first reported 16 March (BP, EH); the species peaked before habitat there was optimal with high counts of ca. 400 on 22 March (DR) and 180 on 24 March (DR, RDv, AH). Other reports of interest included ca. 200 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 8 May (BY, MY, et al.) and a few tardy migrants that remained in the Lower Hickman Bottoms to 28 May (HC), at McElroy to 29 May (DR), and at Morgan Pond into June (DR, BP).

Dunlin – wintering birds were still at Sauerheber 2 March (6 birds) (CC) and 10 March (7 birds) (AH); the species put on an excellent showing at McElroy, where at least 8 on 4 April (AH) represented the earliest migrants reported statewide; at least 100 birds were counted at McElroy on nine days 14-22 May (DR et al.) with peak counts of ca. 300 on 16 May (TD), 350-400 on 18 May, 200+ on 20 May, and ca. 200 on 21 May (DR). Other reports of interest included an unspecified number in w. *Henderson* 27 April (CC); 30 at Sauerheber 4 May (CC); 3 at Melco 9 May

(EH); ca. 30 along KY 739 on 16 May (MB) with 35 there 19 May (MB) and 10 still there 26 May (MB); 17 at the Russellville airport and ca. 25 along US 431 s. of Russellville, both 16 May (MB); and ca. 25 at Swallow Spring 17 May (BP, MSt). Small numbers of birds lingered to the end of the month at McElroy (DR), Morgan Pond (DR, BP) and along KY 739 (DR, FL).

Stilt Sandpiper – singles at McElroy 18 April (DR) and along KY 268, w. *Henderson*, 19 April (BP, EH, BY, MY) were the earliest to be reported; peak counts included 12 at Morgan Pond 3 May (BP, EH, MSt), 20 at various sites in the vicinity of Woodburn 10 May (DR), 50+ at McElroy 14 May (DR, AH), and ca. 15 at McElroy 17 May (DR); an injured bird at McElroy 30 May (ph. DR) was the latest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 6 at Swallow Spring and 10 at Morgan Pond, both 7 May (BP), and 5 at Melco 14 May (BP, EH, MM).

Ruff – a female was present at McElroy 27-28 April (ph. DR et al.). KBRC review required.

Short-billed Dowitcher – the species was well represented at McElroy with 12 first reported there 2 May (DR); at least 30 were counted at McElroy on ten days 9-21 May (DR et al.) with peak counts of “most of 80-85 dowitchers” on 9 May (DR et al.), a new state high count of 140+ on 14 May (DR, AH), and 55 on 15 May (DR). Other reports of interest included 25+ at Morgan Pond 7 May (BP); 75+ at Chapman Pond 10 May (DR); “scores” at various sites in *Logan* 14 May (FL, AL); at least 44 along KY 739 on 15 May (MB) with at least 19 there 16 May (MB) and 12 there 19 May (MB); and 5 at the Russellville airport 16 May (MB). Two at McElroy 23 May (DR) were the latest to be reported. As seems to be the norm, a few individuals with field characters matching those of the Atlantic subspecies, *L. g. griseus*, were reported in the company of flocks of the normal *L. g. hendersoni* in s. *Warren* (primarily at McElroy) 5-18 May (DR et al.).



Short-billed Dowitcher (Atlantic subspecies)
McElroy Lake, 5 May 2008
David Roemer

Long-billed Dowitcher – 1 at McElroy 22 March (ph. DR) established a new early arrival date for the state. The season's peak counts of 28+ on 29 April and ca. 40 on 3 May both occurred at McElroy (DR et al.), and a tardy bird there 23 May (ph. DR) missed the late state departure date by one day. Other reports of interest included 5 at Guthrie Swamp 25 April (DR, JRo); 5 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 26 April (DR, JRo); 2 along John Young Road, sw. *Logan*, 27 April (MB); and 4 at Morgan Pond 3 May (BP, EH, MSt) with at least 2 there 7 May (BP).

Wilson's Snipe – a winnowing bird was heard along KY 86, w. of Cecilia 18 March (BP, PL); peak counts included 220 at McElroy 28 March (DR), and 89 at the jct. of US 79 and Snardon Mill Road, *Todd*, (MB) and 100+ at Chaney (DR), both 5 April; 1 along Midway Church Road 8 May (BY, MY, BP, MM) was the latest to be reported.

American Woodcock – birds in some portions of n.-central Kentucky disappeared following the 8 March snowstorm (m. ob.); 1 was photographed sitting on a deck outside a home in a suburban part of Louisville 9 March, the day after more than 10 inches of snow fell there (*fide* MF). A count of 35 near Ano, *Pulaski*, 14 March (RDn, JDe) was rather impressive.

Wilson's Phalarope – it was an exceptional spring for the species with new high counts, several late-season migrants, and even a nesting attempt! One at McElroy

25 April (DR, JRo) was the earliest to be reported; a count of 18 there 8 May (TD) was followed by one of ca. 30 on 9 May (DR) that represented a new state high count. Two to 6 birds then continued at McElroy to the end of the month, with a nest with eggs located there 30 May (ph. DR). Also, a total of 23 (9 at McElroy, 9 at Chapman Pond, and 5 at Chaney) in the vicinity of Woodburn 10 May (DR) also surpassed the previous one-day state high count. Reports from additional sites included a female at Morgan Pond 7 May (BP); 4 along Midway Church Road 8 May (BY, MY, et al.); 2 at Open Pond 12 May (RDn, SD); and 2 along KY 739 on 13 May (FL, AL) with 3 there 26 May (MB, FL).



Wilson's Phalarope (male near nest)
McElroy Lake, 30 May 2008
David Roemer

Red-necked Phalarope – it was a banner season for the species with four reports: a female at Morgan Pond 3/4 May (ph. BP, ph. EH, MSt/BY, MY) that represented a new early arrival date for the state; probably different females at McElroy 14/18 May (phs. DR et al.); and a new state high count of 6 (3 males and 3 females) at Morgan Pond 17 May (†BP, MSt). KBRC review required.

Laughing Gull – there were four reports: an adult at Waitsboro 21 March (ph. RDn); an adult below Ky Dam 12 April (DR, AH); 3 at the Ky Dam Village marina 9 May (ph. BY, MY); and an adult at Morgan Pond 30 May (ph. DR).

Franklin's Gull – an adult at Barkley Dam 22 March (BP, ph. EH, MSt) was the only one reported.

Bonaparte's Gull – reports of interest included 100+ at McElroy 19 March (DR); ca. 200 at Barren 3 April (DR); and 90 on the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell* (FR), and 400 at Dale Hollow Lake, *Clinton* (SS), both 5 April (FR). A first-year bird on Lake Barkley above the dam to 9 May (BP, MM) was the latest to be reported.

Herring Gull – ca. 200 were still in the vicinity of Ky Dam 18 March (PL) with ca. 300 there 6 April (DR, TD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – there were several reports, all being included: a first-year bird and an adult at Barkley Dam, and a first-year, a first- or second-year, and an adult at Ky Dam, all 18 March (PL); 2 adults at Barkley Dam and a sub-adult at Ky Dam, all 22 March (BP, EH, MSt); a first-year bird (DR) and an adult (ph. JRw) at Barkley Dam 28 March; and 2 (second-year and third-year) birds below Ky Dam 6 April (DR, TD).

Glaucous Gull – a first-year bird was present in the vicinity of Ky Dam 18 March (†PL)–6 April (DR, TD).

Great Black-backed Gull – a first-year bird was reported below Ky Dam 18 March (†PL); with the same or a different first- or second-year bird reported below Ky Dam 6 April (†DR, TD). KBRC review required.

Least Tern – there were only two reports, both of birds away from known breeding locales: an extremely early individual at the Falls of the Ohio 26 April (†T&CB, †DS) and 1 at McElroy 14 May (DR).

Caspian Tern – 1 at Kuttawa 28 March (DR) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 1 at Guthrie Swamp 5 April (MB) that was a local-first; a modest peak of 17 at the Falls of the Ohio 18 April (AG); and 5 at Jacobson Park, Lexington, 20 April (RO).

Black Tern – the species was well-represented at McElroy during the season; 1 was first seen there 4 May (JP, DPu), with peak counts of 30 on 8 May (TD), 45+ on

14 May (DR), 80-100 on 15 May (DB *fide* DR), and 20-30 on 18 May (DR), with 1-12 seen there on six additional dates as late as 22 May (DR). Also reported were 1 at Open Pond 8 May (BY, MY) with 32 there 12 May (RDn, SD); 3 along KY 739 on 16 May (FL) with 1 there 26 May (MB) and 6 there 28 May (FL); and 3 at Melco 16 May (BP) with 1 there 19 May (MW).

Common Tern – there were only three reports: 2 at the Ky Dam Village marina 9 May (BY, MY); 1 at McElroy 11 May (DR); and 5 with 9 Forster's at Dayton, *Campbell*, 14 May (FR).

Forster's Tern – 1-3 were seen at McElroy 24 April–15 May (DR, TD, et al.); 4 at Morgan Pond 30 May (DR) were the latest to be reported.

Eurasian Collared-Dove – a pair was seen building a nest at Cecilia 18 March (BP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – the species was either quite tardy in returning or *very* inconspicuous during most of May, at least across much of central and western Kentucky (m. ob.); 1 at Blackacre 30 April (EH, BBC) was the earliest to be reported; a nest containing 2 young at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 26 May (LM) was relatively early.

Black-billed Cuckoo – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at South Williamson, *Pike*, 27 April (JCr); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 30 April (BP); 1 at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 1 May (DPe, *fide* DW) with at least 2 there 6 May (DW); 2 at the KDFWR Game Farm, *Franklin*, 16 May (AN); 2 at the WKU Upper Green River Biopreserve near Horse Cave, *Hart* (AH), and 1 at Shawnee Park (JBe, PB), both 21 May; 1 at Eddyville, *Lyon*, 27 May (KL, BLe); and 1 at Fort Campbell, *Trigg*, 29 May (DMO).

Barn Owl – there were only two reports during the season: a possible nest in *Lincoln* (LJ, *fide* DW) and 1 at Mt. Zion 17 May (RDn).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – 1 banded at Surrey Hills Farm 5 March (BP) was the only one reported.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS — SPRING 2008



Glossy Ibis, McElroy Lake
14 May 2008
Photo by David Roemer



Long-tailed Duck, Lexington
1 March 2008
Photo by Joe Pulliam



Surf Scoters (3) and Black Scoter, *Kenton*
13 April 2008
Photo by Frank Renfrow



Brown Pelican, Barkley Dam
25 April 2008
Photo by David Brown



Ruff, McElroy Lake, 27 April 2008
Photo by David Roemer



Hudsonian Godwits, McElroy Lake
18 May 2008
Photo by David Roemer

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS — SPRING 2008



Red-necked Phalarope, Morgan Pond
3 May 2008
Photo by Eddie Huber



Hudsonian Godwit (female), McElroy Lake
12 May 2008
Photo by David Roemer



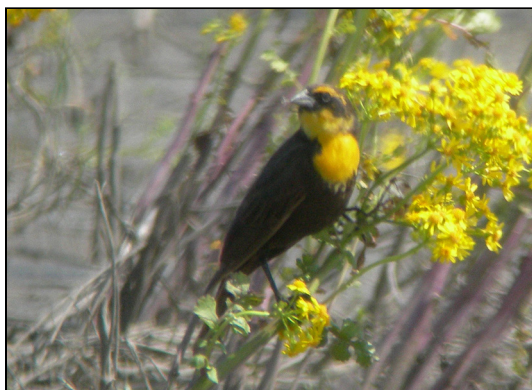
Red Crossbill (1 of 10), Hart
10 May 2008
Video Capture by Ben Yandell



Say's Phoebe, Fulton, 5 April 2008
Photo by Roseanna Denton



Brown-headed Nuthatch, Marshall, 12 May 2008
Photo by Jeff Rowe



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Fulton, 12 May 2008
Photo by Roseanna Denton

Chuck-will's-widow – 2 birds heard along Oven Fork Road, *Elliott*, again this year in late May (EM) suggest breeding in north-eastern Kentucky.

Whip-poor-will – a bird calling near White Oak, *Magoffin*, 31 March (DHn) was the earliest to be reported.

Chimney Swift – birds over Murray 7 April (ME) were the earliest to be reported.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – the species seemed not to be numerous during the spring period. A bird at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 8 April (KCo) was the earliest to be reported.

hummingbird sp. – a bird reliably described as a hummingbird was observed in a yard at Brodhead, *Rockcastle*, 9 March (CH), a date when any hummingbird occurring in Kentucky would most likely be a Rufous.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – there were only four reports: 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 9 May (BY, MY); 1 at Clarks River 20 May (BP); 1 at Pulaski County Park 27 May (RDn); and 1 at Cherokee Park 29 May (BW) and 31 May (JSt, *fide* BW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – there were only three reports: 1 at Shawnee Park 7 May (JBe, PB); 1 banded at Clarks River 20 May (HC, MCh, et al.); and 1 heard at Clarks River 21 May (BP).

Alder Flycatcher – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Melco 14 May (BP, EH, MM); 2 at Caperton 18 May (BY, MY); 1 at Sawyer Park 21 May (CB); 3 heard at Clarks River 22 May (BP et al.); 1 at Meadowbrook Park, *Fayette*, 29 May (BA).

Willow Flycatcher – 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 7 May (BP) may have been a migrant.

Least Flycatcher – 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 30 April (BP) were the earliest to be reported; 1 at Blackacre 31 May (EH, BBC) was tardy.

Say's Phoebe – 1 was found along the Mississippi River levee near the Lake No. 9 pumping station at Elbow Slough, *Fulton*, on 5 April (ph. RDn, ph. HC, ME, PHo). KBRC review required.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – a nesting pair was present again this year along KY 453 n. of Grand Rivers, *Livingston* (m. ob.); 1 below Barkley Dam 12 April (DR, AH) was the only other one reported.

Bell's Vireo – a territorial bird n. of Grand Rivers, *Livingston*, was present again this year (m. ob.); birds at Elbow Slough, w. *Fulton*, 8 May (BY, MY) and in ne. *Union* 18 May (ph. ZC) were away from known nesting areas.

Blue-headed Vireo – a singing bird at Surrey Hills Farm 17 May (BP, MSt) was rather tardy.

Philadelphia Vireo – 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 25 May (BY, MY, BP) was the latest to be reported.

Red-eyed Vireo – singles near White Oak, *Morgan*, 10 April (DHn) and at Shaker Mill, *Warren*, 12 April (DR) were the earliest to be reported.

Fish Crow – birds were encountered only in traditional nesting areas during the period (m. ob.).

Common Raven – there were three reports: singles over US 119, n. of Oven Fork, *Letcher*, and ne. of Payne Gap, *Letcher*, both 2 March (BY, MY); and 1 at Bad Branch SNP, *Letcher*, 18 March (KN).

Purple Martin – 2 at Bowling Green 2 March (TD) and a few in Murray 3 March (HC) were the earliest to be reported.

Bank Swallow – 1 at McElroy 2 April (DR) and 3 in *Pulaski* 15 April (RDn) were the earliest to be reported; peak counts of interest included ca. 400 at McElroy 9 May and 1000+ there 11 May (DR). An active nesting colony was again present at Rome, *Lewis*, in mid-May (RS).

Cliff Swallow – recently discovered nesting colonies on the I-471 bridge over the Ohio River, *Campbell* (FR), along the Ohio River at Newport, *Campbell* (EE, FR), and at Covington, *Kenton* (FR), may have been active for a few years (*fide* FR).

Barn Swallow – 1 over a field in *Calloway* 9 March (HC) and 1 at Cooley's Pond, *Wayne*, 14 March (RDn) were relatively early.

Black-capped Chickadee – the wintering bird at Blaine, *Lawrence*, was reported 1 March (BY, MY). Already under KBRC review.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – small numbers continued at feeding stations from winter, and although a pronounced spring movement was not detected, most likely migrants were observed at feeding stations during mid-April (m. ob.); a summary of the latest reports for the season follows: Shawnee Park 28 April (JBe, PB); Woodburn 2 May (BSc); Surrey Hills Farm 4 May (BP et al.); LBL, *Lyon*, 9 May (BP, MM); the Kentucky Sheriff's Ranch, *Marshall*, 9/10 May (BY, MY/KL, BLe); and Briarwood, *Jefferson*, 10 May (JBe, PB).

Brown-headed Nuthatch – 1 was present at the Kentucky Sheriff's Ranch, *Marshall*, 9-19 May (BP, MM, vt. BY, MY, ph. JRw, SH). KBRC review required.

House Wren – singles at Lexington 5 April (JSw) and at Glasgow, *Barren*, 10 April (LC) were the earliest to be reported.

Sedge Wren – there were only two reports: 1 along Smokey Road, *Ballard*, 29 April (SR) and 1 at Gentle Pond, Sauerheber, 3 May (CC).

Marsh Wren – there were only four reports: 1 at Garvin Brown 19 April (MA); 1 heard at Camp #11 on 5 May (BP); 1 at McElroy 9 May (DR); and 1 at Melco 19 May (ph. EH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – singles at Lexington 29 March (ZC) and at both Henderson (CC) and Murray (ME) 31 March were the earliest to be reported.

Veery – singles at Berea Forest 20 April (TH, RO, BA) and Cherokee Park 24 April (BW) were the earliest to be reported.

Swainson's Thrush – 1 at Shawnee Park 17 April (JBe, PB) was the earliest to be reported.

Hermit Thrush – 1 in *Calloway* 10 May (*fide* ME) was the latest to be reported.

American Pipit – peak counts at McElroy included 200+ on 21 April (DR et al.);

250-300 on 29 April (DR); 300+ on 6 May (DR, AH); and 100+ still there 9 May (DR et al.). Up to a half-dozen lingered at McElroy to 24 May (DR), and an injured bird there 26-27 May (ph. DR) established a new late departure date for the state. Other reports of lingering birds included 1 at Swallow Spring 7 May (BP) and at least a few still at Morgan Pond 9 May (BP, MM).

Lawrence's Warbler – a male was seen at Shawnee Park 9 May (CDi) and 10 May (JBe, PB).

Golden-winged Warbler – there were not many reports, all being included: several birds were on territory at a UK study site w. of Williamsburg, *Whitley*, by 25 April (PHa et al.); 1 near Mark, *Pulaski*, 29 April (CN); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 30 April (BP); 1 heard at Sawyer Park 2 May (BW); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 4 May (BP et al.); 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 7 May (BP); and 2 at LBL, *Lyon*, 9 May (BP, MM).

Tennessee Warbler – singing birds in sw. *Jefferson* 15 April (CL) were the earliest to be reported.

Orange-crowned Warbler – there were a few reports, all being included: 1 at Shawnee Park 23/28 April (JBe, PB); 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 9 May (BP, MM); and a tardy bird at Melco 14 May (BP, EH, MM).

Yellow Warbler – 1 at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 2 April (MW) was the earliest to be reported.

Magnolia Warbler – 1 near Fisherville 23 April (EH, JH) was the earliest to be reported.

Cape May Warbler – 1 at Bowling Green 22 April (JDa) was the earliest to be reported.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – there were several reports of migrants, all being included: 1 at Shawnee Park 28 April (JBe, PB); 1 at Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson*, 4 May (EH, BBC); 1 at Boone County Cliffs SNP 4 May (DM, RMt); 1 at Berea Forest 5 May (TH); 1 at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 6 May (DW); 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, Louisville, 10 May (RDv,

BD); and 4 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 11 May (LM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler – a bird at Jonathan Creek 21 May (ME) missed the late departure date for the state by one day.

Black-throated Green Warbler – an active nest was observed at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 26 April (KH).

Blackburnian Warbler – singles at Shawnee Park 18 April (JBe, PB) and Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 20 April (BJ, EH, BBC) were the earliest to be reported.

Prairie Warbler – 1 at Mt. Zion 7 April (RDn) was the earliest to be reported.

Blackpoll Warbler – 1 at Berea Forest 20 April (TH, RO, BA) was the earliest to be reported.

American Redstart – 1 in nw. *Lee* 15 April (BP) was the earliest to be reported.

Swainson's Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Yahoo Falls, Big South Fork, 19 April (D&LC) was relatively early; 3 along Rock Creek, DBNF, *McCreary* (Great Meadow Campground, Hemlock Grove Picnic Area, and e. of Bell Farm), 26 April (FR), and 2 along Lick Creek Falls Trail, DBNF, *McCreary*, 3 May (T&LM) were in areas where the species has not been reported previously; the only other reports were of birds at usual summering/nesting areas: Bee Rock Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski* (RDn, TH, et al.) and Rock Bridge Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe* (BP).

Ovenbird – singles at Raven Run Nature Preserve, *Fayette*, (TH) and at Red River Gorge Geological Area, *Meniffee* (EM), both 10 April, were the earliest to be reported.

Northern Waterthrush – 1 at Sauerheber 19 April (BP, EH, BY, MY) and 1 near Mt. Zion 20 April (RDn) were the earliest to be reported.

Louisiana Waterthrush – 2 at Seventy Six Falls, *Clinton*, 22 March (RDn) were the earliest to be reported.

Connecticut Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Berea Forest 10 May (RBa, RFs); 1 at the KDFWR

Game Farm, *Franklin*, 13 May (TA) and 16 May (AN); 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 17 May (MSt, BP); 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, Louisville, 19 May (MW); 1 at Clarks River 21 May (HC, BP, et al.); singles at Cherokee Park (MW, BBC), and at Griffith Woods, *Harrison* (IS), both 24 May; and 2 at Surrey Hills Farm (BP, BY, MY) and a female at Mt. Zion (RDn), all 25 May.

Mourning Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 4 May (BP et al.); 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 7 May (BP); 1 at Berea Forest 11 May (TH, BBC); 1 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 11/24 May (LM); 1 at Cherokee Park 12 May (JBA) and 15/18 May (BW, BBC); 3 at Surrey Hills Farm 17 May (BP, MSt); 1 banded at Clarks River 19 May (HC, MCh, et al.); 1 heard there 20 May (BP, HC, et al.); 2 at Shawnee Park 21 May (JBe, PB); 2 at Cherokee Park 24 May (MW, BBC); and at least 3 at Surrey Hills Farm (BP, BY, MY) and 1 at Sauerheber (CC), all 25 May.

Common Yellowthroat – singles near Mark, *Pulaski*, 9 April (CN) and at Knobs State Forest, *Bullitt*, 13 April (EH, BBC) were the earliest to be reported.

Wilson's Warbler – single birds at Surrey Hills Farm (BP) and Garvin Brown (BW), both 2 May, were the earliest to be reported.

Scarlet Tanager – 1 at Berea Forest 14 April (TH) was the earliest to be reported.

Bachman's Sparrow – a bird at the traditional breeding area on Fort Campbell, *Trigg*, 29 May (DMo) represented the only report.

American Tree Sparrow – the 8 March snowstorm was probably responsible for the appearance of a few birds at feeding stations where they had not been present all winter (m. ob.); 1 in a yard at Burlington, *Boone*, 28 March (LM) was the latest to be reported.

Chipping Sparrow – 4 at Jenny Wiley SRP, *Floyd*, 2 March (BY, MY) were likely wintering; a bird that was photographed near Frenchburg, *Meniffee*, 10 March (ph.

RA) had been banded in April 2004 at Catlettsburg, *Boyd* (RC, BBL).

Vesper Sparrow – reports of interest included a relatively early bird in n. *Hardin* 9-10 March (SL); a flock of at least 20 at Surrey Hills Farm 23 March (BP, JBe, PB); a relatively late migrant at McElroy 6 May (DR); another late migrant or possible nester in *Harrison* 10 May (SM); and two (perhaps a breeding pair?) along Burbank Road, w. *Henderson*, 20 May (ph. CC) that could not be relocated on subsequent visits.

Lark Sparrow – there were several reports, all being included: a flock of at least 10 birds along McDonald Landing Road, w. *Henderson*, 19 April (BP, EH, BY, MY), with a few birds remaining in the vicinity through the period; a nest was being built in a fallow field there 5 May, but it was subsequently found destroyed by planting 18 May (ph. BP); 1 at McElroy (BP, EH) and 1 along Homer Murray Road, s. *Warren* (DR, RDv, BD), both 12 May; at least 2 territorial birds singing along Vance Road, w. of Woodburn 29 April through May (DR et al.); and 1 at Fort Campbell, *Trigg*, 29 May (DMo).

Henslow's Sparrow – reports of birds at new locales included at least 4 at Knobs State Forest, *Bullitt*, 13 April (EH, BBC); 4 ne. of Cane Valley, *Adair*, 6 May (BSt) that were county-firsts; and at least 3 just s. of Elva, *Marshall*, 20-23 May (BP, HC, et al.).

Fox Sparrow – a wave of birds showed up at feeding stations following the 8 March snowstorm (m. ob.); 2 near Fisherville 7 April (EH, JH) and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 10 April (BP) were the latest to be reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow – 1 at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 23 April (D&BLa) was the earliest to be reported.

Dark-eyed Junco – a male at Lexington 21 May (ph. ZC) was very tardy.

Lapland Longspur – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 9 March (BP); ca. 25 along Chamberlain Lane, ne. *Jefferson*, 9/10

March (JBe, PB/MA, EH, JH); several flocks totaling ca. 50 birds at Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, 9 March (JP, DPu); and an undetermined number noted in two mixed-species flocks of open ground birds near Petersburg, *Boone*, 9 March (DM). One at McElroy 31 March (DR) was the latest to be reported.

Snow Bunting – the species put in a brief appearance following the 8 March snowstorm; two mixed-species flocks of open ground birds—each containing at least 50 buntings—were found near Petersburg, *Boone*, 9 March (ph. DM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – singles at Murray 3 April (KM, *fide* ME) and at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 17 April (KCo) were the earliest to be reported.

Indigo Bunting – 1 at Guthrie Swamp 5 April (MB) and 1 at Richmond, *Madison*, 9 April (TH) were the earliest to be reported.

Painted Bunting – a female was reported in a yard at Berea, *Madison*, 1 May (†RFs). KBRC review required.

Bobolink – the species was not remarkably widespread this spring; reports of interest included four flocks totaling 185 birds in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 26 April (DR, JRo); up to 50 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 3 May (BP, EH, MSt); and 45 at Petersburg, *Boone*, 10 May (LM).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – there were two reports: a first-year male along Midway Church Road 12 May (ph. RDn, SD) and a male at Morgan Pond 30 May (DR).

Rusty Blackbird – reports of interest included at least 75 combined at a couple of sites at Louisville 29 March (MA) and ca. 200 at Sauerheber 9 April (DR).

Brewer's Blackbird – there were only two reports: 20+ along Smokey Road, *Ballard*, 20 March (SR) and 1 on the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 21 March (DR).

Purple Finch – following a winter season of unremarkable abundance, increased numbers—likely northbound migrants—showed up at feeding stations from the last week of March to mid-April; peak counts in-

cluded 22 near Fisherville (EH, JH) and 10 at the Alpine Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski* (RDn), both 17 April. Latest reports included a male at Cadiz, *Trigg*, 8 May (BM); a female at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 10 May (MA); a female in *Hart* 11 May (SK); a female at Boone County Cliffs SNP 15 May (LM); 4 (2 males and 2 females) w. of Frankfort to 19 May (JBr); and a few near Fisherville into mid-May with at least 1 there to the end of May (EH, JH).

Red Crossbill – quite unexpected were up to at least 10 birds at Dog Creek 10-11 May (RH, SK, vt. BY, et al.) with 2 birds last seen there 13 May (LP).

Pine Siskin – very small numbers continued from winter at scattered locales into mid-

April with a few reports of likely migrants during the month (m. ob.) and the following reports from May: 2 at Panorama Shores 1/6/10 May (KCo); 2 at the LBL Nature Station 1 May (MSc); 4 at LBL, *Lyon*, 6 May (BP et al.); 1 at Cumberland Falls 13-14 May (SS, EM, JN); and 4 at Dog Creek 14 May (BP, EH, MM).

Corrigenda: in the Fall Season 2007 report (*The Kentucky Warbler* 84:11, 2008), the count of 172 Forster's Terns at Jonathan Creek 16 Nov should be attributed to HC (Hap Chambers); in the Winter Season 2007-2008 report (*The Kentucky Warbler* 84:44, 2008), the Western Sandpiper reported from Jonathan Creek was observed on 1 February, not 1 January.

Observers: Rita Adkins (RA), Ben Albriton (BA), Terry Anderson (TA), Michael Autin (MA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Tom & Colleen Becker (T&CB), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MB), Bird Banding Lab (BBL), Carl Bochmann (CB), Steve Bonney (SB), David Brown (DB), Horace Brown (HB), Todd Brown (TB), John Brunjes (JBr), Rhonda Bryant (RBr), Rachel Bush (RBu), Fred Busroe (FB), Joe Caminiti (JCm), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Ron Canterbury (RC), Joan Carr (JCr), Happy Chambers (HC), Mary Chambers (MCh), Kathy Cohen (KCo), Marge Constan (MCo), Linda Craiger (LC), Charlie Crawford (CC), David & Laura Crotser (D&LC), Zach Czirr (ZC), Jordan Davis (JDa), Phyllis Deal (PD), Julie Denton (JDe), Roseanna Denton (RDn), Steve Denton (SD), Robert Dever (RDv), Bonnie Dever (BD), Charles Dietsch (CDi), Christopher Drake (CDr), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Ed Ehrman (EE), Andy Eller (AE), Millie Farmer (MF), Randy Fondaw (RFn), Rob Foster (RFs), Curt Francis (CF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Alan Goldstein (AG), Scott Harp (SH), Barry Hart (BH), Patricia Hartman (PHa), Debra Hausrath (DH), Richard Healy (RH), Gerald Heath (GH), Bill Heitekamp (BHe), Doug Hennig (DHn), Dan Henson (DHs), Kate Heyden (KH), Carol Hitsman (CH), Patty Horner (PHo), Tim Houghton (TH), Eddie Huber (EH), Jennifer Huber (JH), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Bob Johnson (BJ), Michael Johnson (MJ), Les Jones (LJ), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), David & Betsey Lang (D&BLa), Celia Lawrence (CL), Betty Leggett (BLe), Ken Leggett (KL), Paul Lehman (PL), Bill Lisowsky (BLi), Wes Little (WL), Sylvia Lovitt (SL), Allison Lyne (AL), Frank Lyne (FL), Scott Marsh (SM), Don Martin (DMa), Robbie Martin (RMt), Rick Mauro (RMr), Paul & Carol McAllister (P&CM), Lee McNeely (LM), Bobby Metz (BM), Tom & Lynda Mills (T&LM), Kathy Mitchell (KM), Mark Monroe (MM), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Daniel Moss (DMo), multiple observers (m. ob.), Jason Nally (JN), Kyle Napier (KN), Connie Neeley (CN), Andy Newman (AN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Larry Peavler (LP), Don Pelly (DPe), Doreen Pulliam (DPu), Joe Pulliam (JP), Ed Ray (ER), Scott Record (SR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Gerald Robe (GR), David Roemer (DR), Joan Roemer (JRo), Jeff Rowe (JRW), Bill Scates (BSc), Cathy Schad (CS), Mary Schmidt (MSc), Rick Seelhorst (RS), Barbara Stedman (BSt), Stephen Stedman (SS), Ian Stewart (IS), Matt Stickel (MSt), Del Striegel (DS), Jack Still (JSt), Joe Swanson (JSw), Major Waltman (MW), Danny Watson (DW), Jim Williams (JW), Barbara Woerner (BW), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY).

12TH REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary-Chair

The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) maintains the official list of bird species documented as having occurred within the state. The committee receives documentation of bird observations and takes formal votes to determine whether the documentation substantiates the natural occurrence of the species in the wild and within state boundaries. Only rare, out-of-season, or out-of-area species require review by the KBRC (email: secy@kybirdrecords.org). The most recent previously published KBRC report appeared in 2006 (McNeely, L. *The Kentucky Warbler* 82(2):51-52).

This report, the 12th from the KBRC, covers approval votes conducted from April 2006 to August 2008. Eighty-one approved records are included (Table 1). Most reports received through December 2006 are included in these actions, as are some reports received during 2007. Several dozen reports are still pending committee action.

Recent actions taken by the KBRC add 11 species to the official Kentucky list: Mottled Duck, Yellow-billed Loon, Audubon's Shearwater, Swainson's Hawk, Little Stint, Black Skimmer, Long-tailed Jaeger, Northern Shrike, Sage Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole, and Scott's Oriole. Except for the Black Skimmer, observed by multiple individuals, all were documented with photographs. The official Kentucky list now stands at 377 species.

Recent KBRC action also includes approving records of three species for which no Kentucky voucher specimens exist, but for which previously unreviewed photographs will now serve as the earliest or only formal documentation for each in the state: Cackling Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Committee members participating in these actions were Happy Chambers, Roseanna Denton, Darrin O'Brien, Larry Peavler, and Ben Yandell (Secretary-Chair). The committee recognizes the work of the previous KBRC Secretary-Chair, Mark Bennett, who prepared much of the 2004-2005 review materials.

Observers: Steve Anderson (SA), Claudia Angle (CA), Lyn & Brooks Atherton (L&BA), Jane & Pat Bell (J&PB), Mark Bennett (MB), Tom Biebighauser (TBi), Earl Boggs (EB), Gary Boggs (GB), David Brinkman (DBri), David Brown (DBro), W. Horace Brown (WHB), John Brunjes (JBr), Happy Chambers (HC), Elizabeth Ciuzio (EC), Amy Covert (AC), Roseanna Denton (RDn), Robert Dever (RDv), Jon Dunn (JD), Melissa Easley (ME), Jackie Elmore (JE), Paul Evans (PE), Jackie Featon (JF), Guy Haglund (GH), Don Harker (DH), Lana Hays (LH), Richard Healy (RHe), Renee Hooks (RHo), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Kenneth Jones (KJ), Mary Jo Jones (MJJ), Laura Kamperman (LK), Paula & Randall Kepner (P&RK), Mike Larimore (ML), Gary Libby (GL), Phyllis Linton (PL), Bill Lisowski (BLi), John Meredig (JM), Mark Monroe (MM), Nancy Moore (NM), Donald Morse (DM), David & Clara Ann Pallares (D&CAP), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BP), Larry Peavler (LP), Nicole Ranalli (NR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Jon Rickert (JRI), Bobby Riddle (BR), David Roemer (DR), John Rumancik, Jr. (JRu), Bob Sargent (BS), Nancy Scheldorf (NS), Fran and David Slezak (F&DS), Larry Smith (LS), Matt Stickel (MS), Gary Thompson (GT), Mike Thron (MT), Mary Walter (MW), Stephen White (SW), Jeff Wilson (JW), Mike Wright (MW), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY).

Table 1. Records approved by the KBRC, April 2006 through August 2008.

Species (# if > 1)	KBRC Record No.	Location, County	Date(s) Observed	Reporters
Brant <i>Branta bernicla</i>	2005E05	At and near Somerset, Pulaski Co.	14-28 May 2005	LK(ph), RDn(ph)
Cackling Goose (1-9) <i>Branta hutchinsii</i>	2005E02	Basil Griffin Park, Bowling Green, Warren Co.	19 Dec 2004 – 24 Jan 2005	DR(ph)

Species (# if > 1)	KBRC Record No.	Location, County	Date(s) Observed	Reporters
Cackling Goose <i>Branta hutchinsii</i>	2007E01	Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co.	5 Mar 1978	JE, LS, BP(ph)
Cackling Goose <i>Branta hutchinsii</i>	2007E05	Louisville Zoo, Jefferson Co.	13 Jan 1982	NS(ph)
Mottled Duck (2) <i>Anas fulvigula</i>	2002E16	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	22 Mar 2000	DR(†)
Mottled Duck <i>Anas fulvigula</i>	2005E06	Horseshoe Road, Henderson Co.	20 May 2005	BP(ph/†)
Cinnamon Teal (2) <i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	2006E05	Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson Co.	8-10 Apr 2006	DR(ph/†) et al.
Pacific Loon <i>Gavia pacifica</i>	2004E14	Demumbers Bay, Lake Barkley, Lyon Co.	18 Dec 2004	BL(†)
Pacific Loon <i>Gavia pacifica</i>	2004Ewin08	Kentucky Lake near Birmingham Point, Marshall Co.	26 Feb & 10 Mar 2004	DR(†)
Yellow-billed Loon <i>Gavia adamsii</i>	2004E02	Kentucky Lake near Birmingham Point, Marshall Co.	13-30 Mar 2004	BP(ph/†), AC, RDn(ph)
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2002E11	Near Sidney, Pike Co.	27 Feb 2003	PE(ph)
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2002E14	Lake Barkley at Boyd's Landing boat ramp, Lyon Co.	14 Dec 2002	MB(†)
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2004E01	Kentucky Lake (various locales), Marshall Co.	10-15 Mar 2004	DR(vt), HC, RDv, NR, MW
Red-necked Grebe (1-2) <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2006E03	Bypass borrow ponds, Owensboro, Daviess Co.	26-29 Mar 2006	SA(ph)
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2006E17	Lake Cumberland, Waitsboro Recreation Area, Pulaski Co.	4-24 Nov 2006	RDn(ph)
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2006E18	Ohio River at Towhead Island, Jefferson Co.	19 Nov 2006	J&PB(†)
Western Grebe <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	2005E07	Lake Barkley above Barkley Dam, Lyon Co.	1-8 May 2005	BP(ph/†), MS, BY, MY
Western Grebe <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	2006E07	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	6 May 2006	JBr(†)
Audubon's Shearwater <i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>	2005E09	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	12 Jul 2005	DR(vt), MM, BP
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	2005E20	Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson Co.	31 Aug 2005	BY(vt/†), MY
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	2005E28	Frankfort Fish Hatchery, Franklin Co.	31 Aug 2005	ML, BP(sp/ph/†)
Anhinga <i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	2004E06	Bayou de Chien, Fulton Co.	8 Jun 2004	BP(†), EC
Tricolored Heron <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	2005E13	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	4-7 Aug 2005	DR(ph), RDn(ph)
Tricolored Heron (2) <i>Egretta tricolor</i>	2005E18	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	21 Aug 2005	JW(ph/†)

Species (# if > 1)	KBRC Record No.	Location, County	Date(s) Observed	Reporters
Reddish Egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	2004E10	Mississippi River at Island No. 1, Carlisle Co.	12 Sep 2004	DR(ph/†), NR
White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	2005E12	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	4 Aug 2005	DR(ph)
White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	2005E16	Mitchell Lake, Ballard WMA, Ballard Co.	9-13 Aug 2005	NR(ph)
White Ibis (1-2) <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	2006E12	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	9-14 Aug 2006	DR(ph/†)
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	2004E09	Willow Pond, Fulton Co.	11 Sep 2004	DR(ph/†), NR
Roseate Spoonbill <i>Platalea ajaja</i>	2005E15	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	5 Aug 2005	DR(†)
Wood Stork <i>Mycteria americana</i>	2006E13	Lake No. 9, Fulton Co.	9-13 Aug 2006	DR(ph/†)
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	2006E16	Near Walnut Creek embayment Barren River Lake, Allen Co.	20 Oct 2006	DR(†)
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	2006E06	Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson Co.	8 Apr 2006	DR(ph) et al.
Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	2007E02	Shelby Co.	Feb 1979	WHB(ph)
Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	2007E03	Shelby Co.	Dec 1985	WHB(ph)
Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	2008E01	Garrard Co.	5 Jan 1975	BY(ph)
Purple Gallinule <i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	2005E22	Near Sharkey, Rowan Co.	18-25 Sep 2005	TBi(ph/†)
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	2006E02	Along KY 268 near jct. KY 136, Henderson Co.	19 Feb 2006	JM(†)
Marbled Godwit (2) <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	2005E08	Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	12 Jul 2005	BY(†), MS(†), et al.
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	2005E21	Jonathan Creek embayment Kentucky Lake, Marshall Co.	25-26 Sep 2005	HC(ph)
Marbled Godwit (20) <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	2006E01	Paradise Power Plant ash basin, Muhlenberg Co.	21 Apr 2006	RDn(ph)
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	2006E11	Melco flood retention basin, Louisville, Jefferson Co.	16-21 Aug 2006	BP(ph/†), DR(ph)
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	2006E10	Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan Co.	8 Jul 2006	MW, LH(ph)
Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2003E13	Camp No. 11, Union Co.	14 Sep 2003	BP(†)
Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	2005E19	Ohio River at the mouth of the Licking River, Campbell/ Kenton cos.	31 Aug 2005	DBri, FR(ph), JD(ph/†)
Sabine's Gull (2) <i>Xema sabini</i>	2003E12	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	14, 17 & 20 Sep 2002	DR(vt)

Species (# if > 1)	KBRC Record No.	Location, County	Date(s) Observed	Reporters
Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>	2006E19	Honker Bay, Lake Barkley, Lyon/Trigg cos.	16 Dec 2006 – 4 Jan 2007	SW(vt)
Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	2004Ewin07	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	14 Feb – 17 Mar 2004	HC(†), DR(ph)
California Gull <i>Larus californicus</i>	2004E03	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	17-29 Mar 2004	MM, BP(ph), MS
Iceland Gull <i>Larus glaucoideus</i>	2004Ewin06	Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	25 Jan – 26 Feb 2004	DR(ph/†)
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	2004Ewin05	Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	8-17 Feb 2004	DR(ph)
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	2006E14	Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson Co.	6-9 Sep 2006	BY(ph/†), MY, BP(ph)
Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	2004E15	US 119, north side of Pine Mountain, Letcher Co.	9 Sep 2004	GL(sp/†), CA(ph)
Sooty Tern (3-6) <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	2005E11(a)	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	12-15 Jul 2005	DR(ph/†), MM
Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	2005E11(b)	Lake Barkley above Barkley Dam, Lyon Co.	12 July 2005	DR(†), MM
Sooty Tern (2) <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	2005E11(c)	Ohio River below Smithland Dam, Livingston Co.	13 July 2005	DR(†), LP, ME
Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	2005E14	Ohio River at New Richmond, Ohio, Campbell Co.	12 Jul 2005	DM(†)
Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>	2004E07	Mississippi River along western margin of Kentucky Bend, Fulton Co.	22 Jul 2004	JRu(†), KJ, MT, GH
Pomarine Jaeger <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	2005E23	Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, Hardin Co.	3-7 Nov 2005	RHe, DR(ph/†)
Long-tailed Jaeger <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	2004E08	Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall cos.	29 Aug – 11 Sep 2004	HC(ph/†), RDv, NR NM(ph), DR(ph)
Common Ground-Dove <i>Columbina passerina</i>	2005E03	Near Union Mills, Jessamine Co.	late Dec 2004 – 11 Apr 2005	EB, GB, MM(ph)
Rufous Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	2004E11	Shaker Mill, Warren County	11 Oct – 2 Dec 2004	DR(ph), BS(†)
Rufous Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	2004Ewin03	Mt. Washington, Bullitt Co.	4-26 Jan 2004	PL, BP(ph)
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus</i> sp.	2004E13	Kuttawa, Lyon Co.	Oct – 23 Dec 2004	P&RK(ph)
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus</i> sp.	2004E16	Bowling Green, Warren Co.	9 Nov – 23 Dec 2004	JF, JE(ph)
Say's Phoebe <i>Sayornis saya</i>	2004Ewin01	Near Buffalo, Larue Co.	26 Dec 2003	L&BA(ph)
Northern Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	2004E12	Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg Co.	13-28 Nov 2004	RDn(ph), HC, ME

Species (# if > 1)	KBRC Record No.	Location, County	Date(s) Observed	Reporters
White-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo griseus</i>	2006E20	Lost River Park, Bowling Green, Warren Co.	29 Dec 2006	DBro(†)
No. Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	2005E24	Sutton Rd., Lower Hickman Bottoms, Fulton Co.	28 Nov 2005	BY(vt), MY
Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	2006E04	Indian Hills, Louisville, Jefferson Co.	4 Feb – 25 Mar 2006	D&CAP(ph)
Cape May Warbler <i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	2007E07	Land Between the Lakes, Trigg Co.	16 Dec 2006	DR(ph)
Mourning Warbler <i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	2003E06	Homer Murray Road, Warren Co.	9 Dec 2003	DR(†)
Spotted Towhee <i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	2004Ewin02	Rockport-Paradise Road, Muhlenberg Co.	3 Jan – 27 Feb 2004	BP(†), AC
Spotted Towhee <i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	2004Ewin04	Bethel Church Road, McCracken Co.	30 Dec 2003 – 17 Apr 2004	BP(ph), MS
Clay-colored Sparrow <i>Spizella pallida</i>	2006E08	Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Barren Co.	10 May 2006	DR(†)
Sage Sparrow <i>Amphispiza belli</i>	2007E09	Pondsville-Kepler Road, Warren County	18 Apr 2006	AH(ph/†)
Harris's Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	2004Ewin09	Lovellaceville, Ballard Co.	mid-Feb – 5 May 2004	RHo(ph), MM(ph)
Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i>	2006E09	Burkesville, Cumberland Co.	26 May 2006	GT(vt)
Bullock's Oriole <i>Icterus bullockii</i>	2005E01	Lawrenceburg, Anderson Co.	mid-Jan – 8 Apr 2005	BR(ph), DR(ph)
Scott's Oriole <i>Icterus parisorum</i>	2007E06	North of Frankfort, Franklin Co.	29 Jan ¹ – 23 Apr 2007	F&DS(ph), DR(ph)
Lesser Goldfinch <i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	2007E04	Elizabethtown, Hardin Co.	5-7 Dec 1980	MJJ, JRi, DH(ph)

Key to Reporter documentation: † = written description; ph = photograph(s); sp = specimen; vt = videotape or videotape capture. ¹ = early date of 29 Jan should replace previously published dates of 1 Feb for the Scott's Oriole found in *The Kentucky Warbler* 83(2007), pp. 52 & 56.

FIELD NOTE

Sage Sparrow in Warren County

On the afternoon of 18 April 2006, I was walking through a field on my family's property off of Pondsville-Kepler Road in eastern Warren County when I noticed a sparrow scratching around in an area of bare dirt created by cattle underneath some trees. I didn't recognize the sparrow at once but assumed that it was a regularly occurring species that I had never seen. The head of the bird was dark slate gray with an obvious white malar bordered by black. It had white lores and a white eye-ring as well. The back was dark brown with faint black streaking. The breast was white with a central dark spot and faint streaking down the sides. The tail was black, relatively long, and apparently square tipped. I did not clearly see the pattern of the tail (i.e., whether or not there was any white in the outer rectrices). The wings were similar in color to the back with white edging to the coverts. The remiges were a darker slate gray.

After I had finished birding the rest of the field, I went into the house and checked my field guides. Based on the obvious facial marks alone, I was able to identify the bird as a

Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*), a species not expected in Kentucky. I then grabbed my camera and returned to the field in hopes of getting some photographs of the sparrow. I found the bird near its original location, still foraging in the bare dirt. The sparrow allowed me to approach very closely, within a meter or two, and would only fly very short distances to get away. Many times it would run with its long tail cocked upwards rather than fly. I was able to get three photos of the bird before I ran out of film and it flew northwards across the field (Figs. 1 & 2, p. 80). During the approximately 15 minutes I had the bird in view I never heard it call. Having to be out of town, I was unable to search for the Sage Sparrow on subsequent days. Although I had only been birding for two years, I saw the bird very well, and I believe the photographs I took confirm the identification. The combination of structure, plumage, and behavior eliminate all other species.

Sage Sparrow breeds primarily in arid, shrub-dominated habitats of the western United States, mostly in and around the Great Basin and west locally through southern California to the Pacific coast (Martin and Carlson 1998). In contrast to many species of western birds that occur with some degree of regularity in the eastern part of North America, this sparrow is seldom reported far from its normal range. A few spring and fall vagrant Sage Sparrows have been reported to the northwest of the breeding range (Martin and Carlson 1998), but in states lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River there are only a few records.

In addition to representing the first record of Sage Sparrow in Kentucky, my observation in Warren County also may represent only the second record for the species east of the Mississippi River. A Sage Sparrow was photographed in Nova Scotia 13 November 1994 (Forsythe 1995), but I could find no other report from the eastern United States or Canada. Domagalski (2008) lists no records of this sparrow in his summary of vagrant bird records for the mid-continental region (all non-coastal states in the central and eastern portions of North America) as of the mid-2000s. Moreover, a review of official lists published on the internet by state ornithological societies across the eastern United States yielded no reports.

Five subspecies of Sage Sparrow are recognized across its range (Martin and Carlson 1998). The overall plumage of the Warren County bird is most similar to individuals of the two non-coastal subspecies, *A. b. canescens* of the southern Central Valley of California and the Mojave Desert and *A. b. nevadensis* of the Great Basin and adjacent areas. Interestingly, recent studies indicate enough genetic and behavioral difference between these two subspecies to support a species split (Cicero and Johnson 2007). Unfortunately, however, individuals of the two subspecies are similar enough in appearance, differing most significantly in measurements and vocalizations, that the identity of the Warren County bird will likely be impossible to determine if that split occurs.

I would like to acknowledge Carla Cicero, Jonathan Dunn, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., for their assistance in assembling information on vagrant records and subspecies.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, please contact Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Ogden College of Science and Engineering Dean's Office, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 42101 (blaine.ferrell@wku.edu).

K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, please contact Mark Bennett by mail at 113 Iroquois Circle, Russellville, KY, 42276, or via email at (benn5609@bellsouth.net).

Visit the K.O.S. Website

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society, visit the KOS website maintained by Dr. Gary Ritchison at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is charged with determining the validity of records of rare and out-of-season birds in Kentucky. Sightings of such birds should be documented with information supporting the identification promptly submitted to the KBRC. Photographic evidence is desirable but not essential. Electronic documentation is preferred and should be submitted to KBRC Secretary, Ben Yandell, via e-mail at secy@kybirdrecords.org. Hard copy documentation should be mailed to Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary, 513 Lymington Ct., Louisville, KY 40243.



Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (flock of 5), Open Pond, western Fulton Co. 8 May 2008. Photo by Ben Yandell. See Spring Season 2008, p. 56.



Figs. 1 (above) & 2 (below). Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*)
18 April 2006, Warren County (see Field Note, pp. 77-79)
Photos by Aaron Hulsey

